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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Harold Mattice et al.

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
CONTROLLING ACCESS TO AREAS
OF GAMING MACHINES

Serial No.: 09/824,621

Filing Date: April 2, 2001

Seyfarth Shaw Docket No. 403120

Date: September 15, 2004

CUSTOMER NO. 27717

Examiner: Corbett B. Coburn

Group Art Unit: 3714

Confirmation No. 1062

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 7, 2004.

In the September 7, 2004 office Action, the Examiner indicated that the Reply filed on June 7, 2004 is not fully responsive because Applicants failed to make an election in response to the restriction requirement. However, on page 2 of Applicant's June 7, 2004, it can be seen that Applicants provisionally elected, with transverse claims 1-10 of Group I.

As pointed out in the June 7th Response, it is submitted that Applicants' claims are clearly patentable over the claims of Lemay et al., either alone or in combination with the secondary references and, therefore, it is respectfully requested that the double patenting rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.



Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this September 15, 2004.

Registered Attorney for Applicants
Date: September 15, 2004